

## Casino Bill Passes Senate

A bill that requires endorsements from current local officials at the time of an application for casino licenses has passed the Senate.

The Arkansas Democrat Gazette reports the bill would clarify Constitutional Amendment 100, which was passed by voters in November. It mirrors proposed rules by the Arkansas Racing Commission.

Senator Trent Garner voted against the legislation, citing current Jefferson County officials back having a casino there. Since his district covers parts of Jefferson County he asked Jefferson County to be removed from the bill.

Senator Breanne Davis, the bill's sponsor said since current Jefferson County officials approve of the application, there is no need for Garner to worry.

Current officials in Pope County however, are against the construction of casinos and citizens in the county voted against Amendment 100 back in November.

The bill now heads to the House of Representatives, Gov. Asa Hutchinson has said he would sign the bill.